

Serial No. 09/685,624

Attorney Docket No. 253/006

REMARKS

Claims 10-12 and 14-28 are pending in the subject application.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 10-12 and 14-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over the applicants' admitted prior art ("AAPA") in view of United States Patent No. 5,738,911 to Imamura et al. ("the Imamura et al. reference"), United States Patent No. 6,338,868 to Shibuya et al. ("the Shibuya et al. reference"), United States Patent No. 5,974,666 to Tanaka et al. ("the Tanaka et al. reference"), and United States Patent No. 5,907,382 to Kajiura et al. ("the Kajiura et al. reference"). The Examiner indicated that claims 23-28 were allowable.

By the instant amendment, finally rejected claims 10-12 and 14-22 are canceled, without prejudice. Claim 23 is amended to correct errors of a typographical/editorial nature similar to amendments to claims 25 and 27 made in Amendment of March 13, 2003. Allowable claims 23-28 are submitted to the Examiner for further prosecution on the merits.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement of applicants' claim for foreign priority and receipt of a certified copy of the priority document.

Applicants further appreciate the Examiner's indication that the drawings filed October 12, 2000, are acceptable.

While applicants believe that the instant response places the application in full condition for allowance, if the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.